



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

13/c
P. 31-01A

In re application of : ATTN: BOX CPA
Hiroyuki INOUE et al. : Docket No. 00290/6762FUSK
Serial No. 09/384,283 : Group Art Unit 1745
Filed August 27, 1999 : Examiner J. Crepeau
BATTERY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

OCT 30 2001
TC 1700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 16 and add new claim 36 as follows:

~~2 16~~ (Amended) A battery comprising:
an electrode assembly;

an external case having a bottom, an inner surface and an outer surface, said external case surrounding said electrode assembly, said inner surface of said external case having an inwardly protruding projection having a first surface area, said outer surface of said external case having an inwardly protruding recess, said recess located so as to correspond with said projection; and

a lead plate having a welding surface area, said lead plate being connected to said electrode assembly, and a portion of said welding surface area being welded to said external case at said first surface area of said projection;

wherein said lead plate is welded to said external case by an energy beam externally applied to said external case; and

wherein said first surface area is smaller than said welding surface area.